Contents: Book Reviews, Poetry, Dear Dad, Answer Amazons

NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

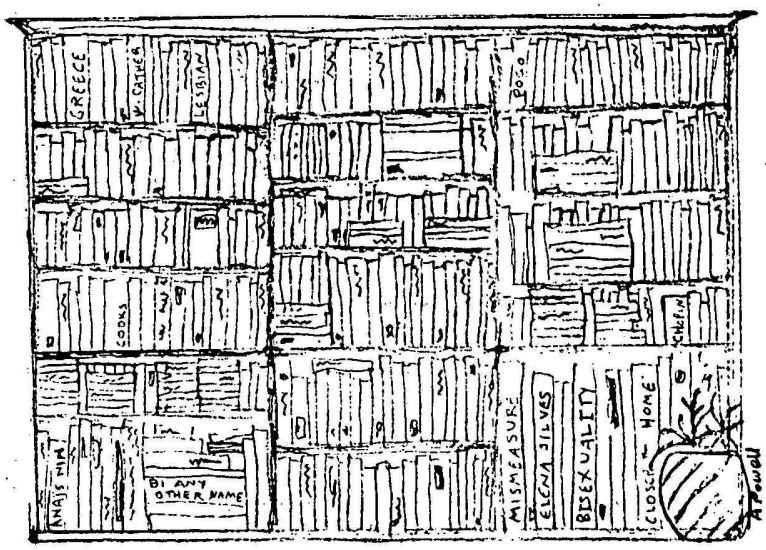
Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

JUNE/JULY 1994 VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

The Last Book

Welcome to *NBiNW's*
Summer Books Issue!

by Lizabeth Coller



Tuesday. What a day Tuesday turned out to be.

I did all the usual things; woke up, showered and dressed, went to work. It was a long day, almost ten hours on the phone dealing with people's complaints and listening to my boss complain about the amount of supplies the office was using. Like any of this is my fault! But it was just like any other day.

Since it was late when I left, I had decided to eat dinner out and maybe do some shopping, before going home. I took the bus to the 10th St. shopping area near my home. I went to my favorite pizza place and ordered my usual. While I was waiting for it to come, I thought about my life. My bills seemed to be just covered by my paycheck, but there was never enough to put any away. I liked the people at my job, but the work itself was mostly boring, and I definitely deserved more money. I had friends, but never enough time to spend with them. And my love life; the most I could say was that I'd had one, once. I had a general sense of discontent.

After I ate I did my errands, stopping at the drug store and the grocery. I walked by the bookstore on the corner, thinking that I didn't really need another book. But I turned around and went in.

I walked through the store looking at the selection. I could get a mystery where I would match wits with the detective: a more exciting life than I have. I could buy a biography, and get to know an interesting person and what they contributed to the world: more than I ever will. A book of poetry and I could pretend I was an artiste, surrounded by other gifted people.

If I bought a cookbook, I could create magnificent meals, and everyone would want to come to my house for dinner. Or maybe I could get the book on traveling to exotic lands, where I would become exotic myself. All these choices... so many opportunities. But I told myself I could only take one; payday wasn't until next week.

After some time, I picked a book. Yes, I had hopes that this book would help move me out of my funk. But it looked like such a good book, with such a great topic, and the author... But it was getting late, and dark, and I had to get home.

As I walked toward my apartment I thought of my new book. I wanted to start reading it right away! I wanted to get right to the inner workings of it, to hear what it had to say.

The elevator was in use, and I was too excited about my new book to wait. I ran up the four flights. I opened my door, jumped over the pile of mail and closed the door. I put the bags down and took my new book out. I walked over to the big bookcase against the south wall, the biggest bookcase I could fit in there. I looked at the books stacked on it; I had gotten that book when I lost out on the promotion, and that book when I decided my last lover wasn't good for me. And those two books I bought on vacation, but didn't get around to reading before I had to go back to work. And my mother recommended that book; said it helped her. And other books. And I hadn't had time to read more than a page or a chapter in any one of them.

I looked for an open spot to put my new book, but there wasn't one. I already had books stacked on the outside edges, and there were books piled on top of the nicely shelved books. I moved one pile, but there was no space behind it. And no space behind three other piles. But, on top of the next pile was just enough room for the new book. I had to push a bit, and it was tight, but it did fit.

The phone started to ring. As I turned and started to walk over to it,

Continued on Page 4

Join! $10-50/year, sliding scale.
I want to wear my bisexuality in my wallet. Make me a card carrying bisexual! Enclosed is $_____ for a one-year membership.

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and is a member in good standing of
The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network
Date SBWN Coordinating Committee

Memberships are $10-50 a year on a sliding scale, and are open to women everywhere. Members are entitled to discounts on events and purchases. See mail-in form above.

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network and to promote, in both the heterosexual world and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

We regard ourselves as part of the community that is united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face on the bases of our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is non-hierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We are invested in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices

North Bi Northwest *is the bimonthly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, as well as creative writing, artwork, and an advice column.*

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We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women. Help define our culture! Share your histories, anger, pleasure, energy. Send us your essays, poetry, photographs, drawings, book reviews, short stories, interviews, media reports, rants, cartoons, erotica, journals, theory, conversations and letters. You're important to us and what you have to say is important to everyone.

We accept input on disk with *hard copy (Mac or PC), typed, or handwritten if it's legible. If you send us something to print, you get a free issue; send six and get a year's subscription! Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name.*

Views expressed in North Bi Northwest *are those of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SBWN. Inclusion in this publication does not indicate author's sexual orientation.*

Deadline for submissions to the next issue: July 4. (see address above).

North Bi Northwest is printed on bi paper! (50% recycled).

North Bi Northwest

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Peggy Walsh, Lisa Coyote, Lizabeth Coller

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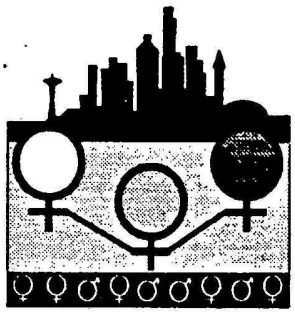
Denise O., Bettykay and volunteers



Seattle Bisexual
Women's Network
PO Box 30645
Greenwood Station
Seattle WA 98103-0645

SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or talk to a facilitator at a meeting.

North Bi Northwest is available by subscription (see above) or at area bookstores and newsstands, including: in Seattle, **Red and Black Books, Beyond the Closet, Bailey Coy Books, Fremont Place Book Company**, and in Tacoma, **Imprints**.

North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services, PO Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122-0228. (Not for correspondence with SBWN or North Bi Northwest).

From the Editors:

Well, here we are at the beginning of another great Seattle summer! This edition of *North Bi Northwest* offers a slew of interesting books you might want to peruse on those occasional rainy days in June and July. From fiction to nonfiction, you'll probably find something that arouses your interest (and maybe arouses something else, too!).

This summer marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the infamous Stonewall riots. The gay/bi groups in New York City are planning a variety of events to mark the date. Seattle will commemorate by including a Stonewall tribute during the Pride Rally on June 26. Even though most of us were either unborn or mere youngsters when NYC police raided that gay bar and unleashed the gay rights movement, it's still a milestone that is worthy of commemoration.

Speaking of milestones, I'm sure everyone is waiting breathlessly for word of *North Bi Northwest's* themes for the August/September issue. The topics are: personal milestones, moving to Seattle and/or joining SBWN, and SBWN's ninth birthday in August. As always, we will gladly accept writings or drawings on any other subjects. Please keep in mind that we cannot always print your submissions right away. Even now we have a small backlog of excellent material awaiting a publication date.

SBWN will mark its 10th anniversary in August 1995. Let's celebrate next year with a fantabulous bi bash! Send your ideas for parties, parades, etc. to *NBiNW*. It's not too early to begin planning.

Letters, Letters, Letters

Israeli Queer Group Checks In

Dear Sisters SHALOM,

The SPPR (Society for the Protection of Personal Rights for Lesbians, Gay Men and Bisexuals in Israel) was founded in 1975 and since then has achieved many important political and legal achievements: the decriminalization of homosexuality and the amendment to the law forbidding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the work place. One of the most crucial events of our history took place on February 2, 1993 when a delegation of about 100 gay men and lesbians attended a conference at the Israeli parliament which marked the establishment of a sub-committee for gay and lesbian rights. Updated news and information are published regularly in our English-language trimonthly newsletter *Israel Update.*

Last year we opened the gay community center - which is, I believe, the only one of its kind in the entire Asian continent. The center includes a rather large library and hosts various activities: social meetings, support groups, lectures and so on. The establishment of the community center on Nahmani Street has gone a long way toward providing a haven and a hub for gay life in Israel. But we still need a lot of things to improve the space and make it more appealing and useful.

Another facet of our existence is the amount of positive coverage lesbians and gay men have received in the local press. The *Yonat Arava Library* in our community center has dozens of folders containing hundreds of newspaper clippings. Members of our Board have often been interviewed and have participated in various programs, and have received positive, reinforcing media coverage. In a country as 'news aware' as Israel, the long-term effects of such mass media exposure should be well appreciated.

Since we have founded the youth support groups, they have blossomed, and attract young people who come here for guidance, help, and socializing. For them, as well as for the adult members, we strive to provide an atmosphere of encouragement, warmth, and safety. For with all the positive media coverage and the lax attitudes within the public sphere, there is still discrimination and homophobia on the interpersonal levels. In other words, unfortunately, there is a wide discrepancy between the positive attitudes on the public arena levels and what lesbians and gay men feel and have to deal with personally on a day-to-day basis.

Finally, it goes without saying that we will all be immensely grateful if you could donate anything that could be added to our library. Let me accentuate the fact that gay-themed books and magazines are NOT imported into Israel. God knows why... There is no legal prohibition. Even used and second-hand stuff will be great.

Amit Kama (Mr.)
SPPR, PO Box 37604
Tel Aviv, 61375, Israel

Pen Pals Sought

K. L., a young (16) correspondent asked if we knew of any pen pals she could correspond with. We thought we should offer you all the opportunity to see who's out there.

Send an SASE and a note to: PO Box 11248, Hilo, Hawaii 96721. Tell them a bit about yourself and they'll try to match you with three compatible bi people. A disclaimer: no one we know has tried this yet, so we don't know how well it's working.

Any teenagers interested in writing to K.L. can contact her through *North Bi Northwest.*

Seattle's A Great Place To Visit

We've had company recently! Claire from Boston was back for a week's visit. She was here two years ago and saw Annie Sprinkle's film presentation at the U of W. They won't let Annie back for this year's BGLAD event, because they're afraid she'll show us her vagina. Joan F., formerly of SBWN, now lives in Boise, ID. She showed up at one Sunday's meeting to report that she and a friend have formed the Boise Bisexual Network. It's small, but steadily growing. Then Lani Kaahumanu was here to address the Evergreen State College Queer Alliance on bisexuality, and to hang out in Seattle a couple of days. Keep on coming; it's fun to have company! And we'll be over to see you when we can, and maybe come to your Pride March!

Support Feminist Cause in Miss.

Brenda Hanson & her partner Wanda have been trying to run their feminist education retreat, Camp Sister Spirit, in Ovett, Mississippi, and meeting a lot of hostile resistance from neighbors. They've been threatened and harassed by phone calls, letters, and malicious mischief at the hands of neighbors, clergy, and local media, in the name of fighting the 'Gay Agenda.'

The center began as a feminist bookstore, and evolved into a rape crisis center, food bank, clothes closet, hospice for PWAs and battered women's center, located in one of the poorest counties in the state. The women are from the local area and perceive a great need there for the services they provide, so resent urges from their neighbors to 'go to San Francisco or New York to organize this kind of thing!' But they're scared of their neighbors' hostility and violence, and need to know we're out here rooting for them!

Please help if you can with their material needs, i.e. money, food, fencing... And send postcards and letters of support letting them know they're not alone or forgotten.

Brenda & Wanda Hanson, Camp Sister Spirit
PO Box 12, Ovett, MS, 39464
601-344-1411 ▼

Resource Books Are Invaluable for Bis

A local woman recently wrote to say she'd just finished reading Tom Geller's *Bisexuality: A Reader and Sourcebook (reviewed this issue, see page 5)*, and wondered if SBWN and *North Bi Northwest* were still around. Well, we sure are!

Women find SBWN through many sources: word of mouth, Lesbian Resource Center, *Seattle Gay News*, *North Bi Northwest*, and of course we're in the phone book. Lately, though, the bi books by bi folks have been coming through for us.

In the past six months, we've heard from women who say they found us through listings in the back of *Bi Any Other Name*, Lani Kaahumanu & Loraine Hutchins; *Closer to Home*, Elizabeth Reba Weise; *Bisexuality: A Reader and Sourcebook*, Thomas Geller; and even the newest *Bisexuality and Women*, by Sue George. Check them out; they're all worth reading! Geller's *Reader and Sourcebook* is required reading in a Human Sexuality course at California State University, San Marcos.

Thank you, all you authors and editors. Keep up the good work; we're all looking for more good bi words! And be sure to include a bi-group list in your index; people are hungry for them. ▼

FORSAKING THE SENSUAL SOUL

by Regina Strong

I touched her.
There was no crime involved.
Someone down the hall from my life said,
"You should be ashamed!"
knowing my intentions.

I kissed her lips
to relish in the tingling sensation.
I caressed her belly.
and watched it quiver.
I closed my eyes;
blocking painful memories
and the damn 'homophobe' down the hall.

I lifted the lids of my eyes.
Through tears,
the room became distorted.
I urged for my pathetic, empty shell
to be replenished.
With uneasy breath and shaking limbs
I relinquished my soul
to a few moments of satisfaction.

Continued from Page 1

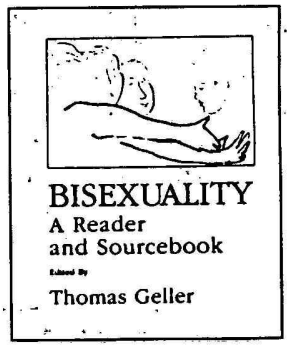
I heard some creaking. The floor started shaking, and my only thought was Earthquake! But the lights weren't flickering, it wasn't like on tv. I turned back to the bookcase, and saw it wobble, and the floor around it start to come apart. In just a couple of seconds the bookcase had fallen through the floor!

After the dust cleared a bit, I lay on my stomach and crawled over to the hole where the bookcase had been. I carefully peered over the edge, and saw the bookcase very far away, all the way to the first floor.

My new book had been one book too many. ▼

Books for Bi Women

Bisexuality: A Reader & Sourcebook
by Thomas Geller



Hey, any book that contains the lyrics and melody for a song titled "The Borderline Bisexual Blues" simply MUST be reviewed in North Bi Northwest!

I came upon this slim, well-worn gem of a paperback when I perused the reference computer of the Seattle Public Library for any titles under the subject heading of "bisexuality." Only a few titles came up, and two not among them were "Bi Any Other Name" and "Closer To Home," although they are available under "title" and "author" searches.

The author of "Bisexuality," Thomas Geller, definitely did his homework. This book contains a plethora of citations of books, movies, plays, scientific journals, magazine articles, etc., that mention bisexuality.

SBWN even gets mentioned twice (by my count): once under "Periodicals on Bisexuality," under the heading of *North Bi Northwest* (we are not included in the listing of national bi groups). The second mention is under "Bi-Lexicon," where SBWN is credited with creating the term "holly" to describe a bisexual woman. Here's the story behind it: "Why a holly? It was explained to me this way. Singer Holly Near was asked if she was lesbian or straight. Her answer was that she was Holly."

(Since I have never heard anyone in SBWN use this term, I challenge any old-timers to write to *NBiNW* and verify that we did indeed invent this word. *NBiNW* will publish responses in a future issue.)

Robin Ochs is interviewed twice, and she comes across as an intellectual pioneer in the bisexual movement. Beth Reba Weise, a pioneer woman herself (co-founder of *NBiNW*), contributes an article about political bridge-building between the gay and straight worlds. Other men and women offer personal stories, including an article about disability and bisexuality. Some line drawings sprinkled throughout are surprisingly erotic.

Also, philosophical approaches to bisexuality are explored. One article is titled "Sexual Orientation: A Multivariable Dynamic Process." A scholarly article titled "Bisexuality in an Essentialist World: Toward an Understanding of Biphobia" contains the sample sentence: "I believe that sexuality is overdetermined, and has both essentialist and constructionist roots."

Interestingly, the author of that article, Amanda Udis-Kessler, also wrote the song "Borderline Bisexual Blues," which contains lyrics such as "You can tell me, 'Make your mind up!' but how can I choose? - I can't play it straight or gay, each way I lose. I got the Borderline Bisexual Blues."

This 1990 book offers thought-provoking material that ranges from intellectually complex to poetic and playful. It is must reading for hollies everywhere.

Lisa Coyote ▼

The Color Purple *by Alice Walker.* 1992 Harcourt Brace & Co. & 1993 Tenth anniversary ed.

Everything You Have is Mine *by Sandra Scoppetone.* 1991 Little, Brown & Co. & 1992 paper, Ballantine Books, Inc.

Freaks: Myths & Images of the Secret Self *by Leslie Fielder.* 1993 Anchor Books & paper, First Anchor Books.

I'll Be Leaving You Always *by Sandra Scoppetone.* 1993 Little, Brown & Co.

Mad at Miles: A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth *by Pearl Cleage.* Out of print.

The Man Who Fell in Love With the Moon: A Novel *by Tom Spanbauer.* 1992 paper, HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.

The Mismeasure of Woman: Why Women Are Not the Better Sex, the Inferior Sex, or the Opposite Sex, & How Using Men as the Yardstick for Normalcy has Given Women the Short End of the Stick *by Carol Tavris.* 1992 Simon & Schuster & 1993 paper Touchstone Books.

The Morning After: Fear, Sex, & Feminism on College Campuses *by Katie Roiphe.* 1993 Little, Brown & Co.

When Love Goes Wrong: What To Do When You Can't do Anything Right; Strategies for Women with Controlling Partners *by Ann Jones & Susan Schecter.* 1992 HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.

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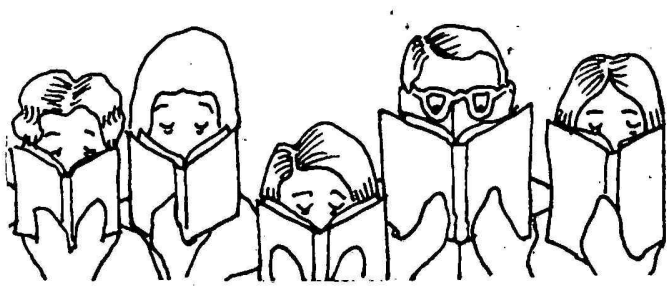


Turn page for more books!

Reviews, continued...

Mad at Miles, A Blackwomon's Guide to Truth
by Pearl Cleage

To *Mad at Miles, A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth*, by Pearl Cleage I give the highest rating a white woman can give this book. I can't wait to read more by her. This one is a collection of essays and performance pieces whose centerpiece is a call to destroy all the recordings of Miles Davis' music until he reforms himself of his abusive crimes against women. (The essay was written when he was still alive). She believes that no excuses can be made for continuing to respect and support someone who admitted to slapping his wives and girlfriends around. It's what I've always thought of as the Led Zeppelin dilemma - can you excuse abominable woman-hating behavior (and lyrics) if the guys write really rockin' tunes? Cleage says scratch up the CDs. The other pieces in the book discuss violence against women as well as romance, solitude, and how to take care of yourself. *Erica Avery* ▼

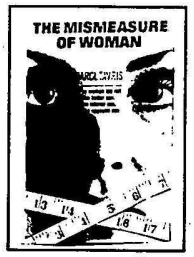
The Color Purple
by Alice Walker

The Color Purple by Alice Walker is of course excellent; you've probably already read it. It still deserves mention, mainly for Shug Avery, bisexual nightclub singer who befriends Miss Celie. Unlike the movie, the book doesn't shy away from the nature of their relationship. They show up again in *The Temple of My Familiar.*
E.A. ▼

The Man Who Fell in Love with the Moon: A Novel
by Tom Spanbauer

This book is supposed to be the hot new bisexual novel but it's really pretty twisted. I won't give away the plot but incest figures prominently. Spanbauer has one of those styles like Kerouac's: original sounding, melodic, slightly hypnotic - and like a Milli Vanilli tune, when it's over you can't get it out of your head. This book is also more than a little misogynist. Maybe it's just not a book for women. Some bi guys thought it was great... *E.A.* ▼

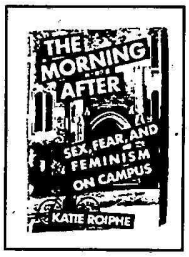
The Mismeasure of Woman
by Carol Tavris



Speaking of normalcy, *The Mismeasure of Woman* by Carol Tavris is an amazing book. Tavris is a psychologist who scrutinizes the concept of the 'normal' man and how it's screwed women over in medicine, law, and psychology. She makes it clear how the game is set up for women to lose; for example pregnancy can't be looked at as comparable to anything men experience. It's unique. And different for every woman. If we keep trying to treat a pregnant worker like 'one of the guys' of course it's not going to be fair to anyone. Her solution is 'Equality as Acceptance;' equal doesn't mean identical. Differences can be accommodated. Her analysis of men and women in relationships (with each other) is fascinating. She illustrates how the 'disease' of codependency, like the disease of PMS, the Cinderella Complex, and numerous others, is another way to make women feel abnormal. The profile of a co-dependent woman is basically the profile of what women are raised ideally to be. It's another Catch-22 where women can't win. Tavris goes a little off-track at the end with a curious stab at dubious memories of childhood abuse, but I still highly recommend this book. *E.A.* ▼

Freaks
by Leslie Fielder

Freaks by Leslie Fielder is subtitled *Myths and Images of the Secret Self.* It's an exploration of all sorts of unusual human beings such as dwarves, giants, Siamese twins, etc. The pictures alone are fascinating, and actually it would probably be a better book without Fielder's pompous text. When he isn't arguing that circus performers should *like* being called Freaks (when they've organized to change that name), he's trying to support human discomfort with ambiguity with the premise that homo- and bisexuality are basically too bizarre for comprehension. This book is only 15 years old and he's still talking about 'us normals.' One can only hope he'll be left talking to himself. *E.A.* ▼



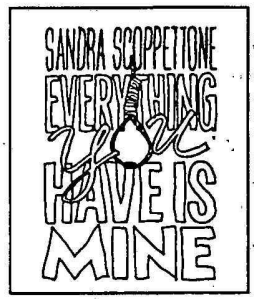
The Morning After
by Katie Roiphe

"There hasn't been a remarkable change in the number of women being raped, it seems, just a change in how receptive the political climate is to these numbers." In other words, as Katie Roiphe argues in *The Morning After,* virtually every woman in our culture has been raped or sexually harassed, according to some current definitions of harassment and rape. In her view, responding to each individual incident as if it had sinister political overtones causes us to see ourselves as victims. She claims that women entering college are taught that men are parasites, and this outlook robs them of the freedom and choice which were the original goals of the women's movement.

Roiphe recalls her childhood as the daughter of a feminist writer, not being allowed to watch the Brady Bunch because it promoted gender stereotypes. She understands feminism, she assures us, and is living proof of it: strong, self-confident, capable of intelligently sorting through sexist cultural messages, taking responsibility for her ideas and actions. "Rape crisis feminism," as she dubs it, robs women of the right to honestly choose sexual partners and experiences, to make mistakes and learn from them. But her image of the vulnerable freshwoman, terrified into chastity by alarmist messages about date rape, often bears an eerie resemblance to the image she rejects of the naive new student targeted and, she claims, manipulated by the so-called hysteria.

While she makes legitimate points from time to time about the exaggerated nature of some of the feminist response to perceived abuses, her argument, too, is diluted by overstatement. It may benefit no one for a woman to take legal action against a man who verbally coerces her into having sex, but her anger is legitimate and his behavior is wrong. The analogy Roiphe draws to women similarly persuading men will not be an accurate one until our language, our mythology, our economy and our legal system treat the sexes as equals. It is true that in some sense virtually every woman in our culture has been sexually abused. Rather than minimizing individual instances, this observation should awaken us to their significance. *Devra Gartenstein* ▼

Everything You Have Is Mine and *I'll Be Leaving You Always*
by Sandra Scoppettone



Even though these two books are mysteries, they are not necessarily light reading! I like my mysteries with good character development, reasonable events, and a solution that doesn't just get pulled out of the air. Scoppettone satisfies at least two of these requirements in each book.

The female protagonist in both books is Lauren, a lesbian private detective. Her lover Kip is a therapist; they live together in a brownstone in Greenwich Village. Lauren is very human, and very likable. Her relationships with different people, both straight and gay characters, are believable. Some of her history is pretty wild, though: joining the FBI, shooting her lover by accident during a case. But this is fiction, so I can let it go.

I found the meaning behind each title very clever. *Everything You Have is Mine* refers to the idea that some people have of owning someone else, that everything you posses, including emotions, belong to them. And *I'll Be Leaving You Always* is about the death of a friend. I think it's true that every time you think of someone who has left, you feel the loss again. And this loss is amplified for Lauren, as she learns new things about someone who was her best friend.

The first book has a very realistic build up, from who the client is, and who her missing sister is, to the circumstances about the sister's disappearance. The resolution of the mystery is more than reasonable, with no surprise characters, and nothing left unfinished.

Leaving does not satisfy as well. Again, the story is good, and some sideline things, like Lauren coming to grips with the death of her friend, and Kit's brother's illness, fit right in. But some other characters are not so strongly drawn, and when Lauren figures out who the murderer is, I felt the character had been thrown in, and the motive very flimsy. But the strength of the rest of the story does make up for this.

I can not imagine what Scoppettone's next book, *My Sweet Untraceable You*, will be about, but I am looking forward to reading it. It's due out in early June. *Lizabeth* ▼

The Man Who Fell in Love With the Moon
by Tom Spanbauer

This strikes me as a book ideally suited to someone in their teens or early twenties; there's quite a variety of sex, an exploration of spirituality, and a look at how they intersect.

It's the story of a young man called Shed, presumably Bannock/Shoshone, growing up in Excellent, Idaho, about a hundred years ago. The tiny town has a few shops, livery stable, Mormon school and church, and the brothel/saloon/inn where Shed lives with his foster mom and a few other women. We are taken on a journey through life in town, meeting his extended family and townspeople who disapprove of them.

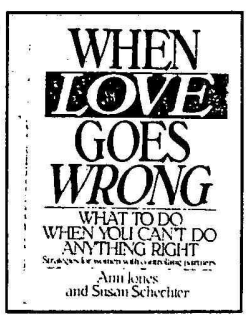
Shed goes on a journey to find his mother's people, to better understand his origins. Along the way he meets a white man, Delbert Barker, whom he deduces is his father. They travel through myths and wilderness together to a cave in rugged Craters of the Moon, Idaho, where they become lovers. Spanbauer offers us wonderful word pictures of the sights, colors, space and smells of the Western countryside.

At the US Government Fort, a sorry Indian Reservation welfare post, Shed, looking for his heritage and the buffalo Delbert Barker told him of, gets a look at the degradation America did to the Indians. He spends a rough winter with Indians on the Reservation, then returns to Excellent. The winds of politics have changed, and the Righteous, fulfilling the 'Will of the Lord,' attack Shed and his family for being perverts. Things go downhill from there for them all, but Shed finally learns the truth of his origin.

This book is definitely written from a male viewpoint of sex, suggesting that 'a man receiving a man like a woman (anal sex), by being as female as a man can get, what you find...is the beautiful warrior in yourself who knows both sides.' As a woman, I find this presumptuous, but it is tempered throughout the book with emotional connection, physical affection, and Tantric aspirations.

It's about the most bisexual novel I've ever read. And it's popular; the Seattle Public Library has just ordered six more copies, doubling their collection.

Peggy Walsh ▼



When Love Goes Wrong
by Ann Jones and Susan Schecter

When Love Goes Wrong is one of the most comprehensive guides to abusive relationships I have read in the last ten years. It encompasses who controllers are, interspersed with examples of the types of controllers, of relationships, checklists, where to go for help and what to do in most situations. The authors present the material with compassion that works not only for the heterosexual population, but also the sexual minority population as well. If you think you're in an abusive relationship, then this is a MUST read. *Jet* ▼

Advertising

North Bi Northwest welcomes advertising from bi-friendly businesses, individuals, organizations and services. Our advertising rates are as follows:

Business card size: $10/issue
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2 consecutive issues: 15% discount
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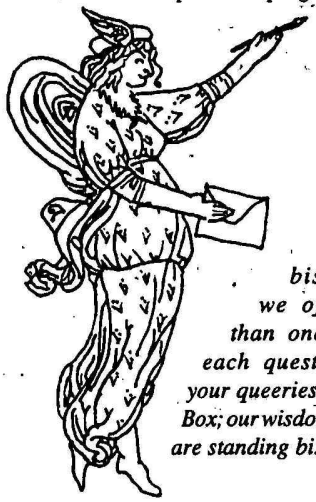
For more information call (206) 783-7987 & leave a message for Delvina Crumbaugh

Let's face it, we all have our problems. Whether it's a perilous polyfidelity predicament or simply how to shop for latex, North bi Northwest *is here to help. In keeping with the spirit of bisexuality, we offer more than one reply to each question. Send your queeries to our PO Box; our wisdom-mongers are standing bi.*



Dear Answer Amazons,

I have been yearning for a woman lover for far too long. Although I'm acquainted with several bi-women who interest me romantically, I have no idea if the feeling is mutual. How can a woman successfully broach the subject of sexual intimacy with another woman? I am particularly perplexed about my relationship with Mary, one of the bi-women I referred to previously. Several months ago, a dinner conversation I had with Mary revealed unexpected similarities between us and dispelled many misconceptions we had about each other. I felt that this interaction moved our casual relationship to a deeper level. This impression was confirmed when, with body language that sparked the flame of lust within me, she asked me out to a lunch date. But as it happened, she postponed the date over a month before we finally went out. This date was somewhat disappointing, probably because Mary was not feeling well. At a later social event we both attended, I suggested that we go out again, and she consented. She promised to call me, but after two months, I have yet to receive a call from her. In the meantime, we have seen each other occasionally in group settings, and she is always friendly towards me. I'm confused by the mixed signals I feel she's sending me. Should I let her know how I feel about her? Do you think our future lies in each others' arms?

Stephanie P.

Dear Stephanie,

How much yearning can you stand? Even goddesses have to open their mouths and say something to make things happen. Until you have a 'straight' talk with Mary, there is no telling whether you will have a future together or not. Be vulnerable, be loving, be responsible for making it happen. Your choices are at least (a) not say anything and continue to be confused and yearning, (b) forget about her, or (c) tell her your feelings, your confusion, your desires, and risk her turning you down/ saying yes. The final choice is the one which mortals who live life choose. We ancients who observe mortal goings-on will be relieved - so relieved.

Aphrodite

Dear Stephanie P,

I see another woman in your future. If not Mary, then another lucky woman. My dear Stephanie P, life is too precious to waste in pursuit of women who send you mixed signals. Please clarify those mixed signals as soon as you encounter them. For the present, do give Mary another chance. Ask her out and tell her exactly how you feel about her. If she is not interested in an intimate relationship, do give someone else the opportunity to love you.

My advice to you, Stephanie, is to be proactive and assertive in your pursuit to bring a lover into your arms. Invite prospective love interests until you drop and never give up. So what if they say no. Not everyone is for you anyway. Stay in the game by attending many social functions. Remember that the woman of your dreams is out there somewhere, or closer than you might think.

When the time is right, the Queen of Love believes in the direct approach when addressing the crucial intimacy question. Look deeply into her eyes and say, 'I can't wait to get into your pants,' or, 'I have the hots for you,' or more subtly, 'I'm highly attracted to you. Do I stand a chance with you?' Or say whatever. Just say it!

I wish you good luck in the game of love. Happy scoring!

Queen of Love

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JUNE 26 1994

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Stonewall Riots Changed Gay/Bi Living in U.S.

by Chris Ferris

One of the most important and inspirational events in my life happened before I was born: the riot at the Stonewall Inn. My mother was only twelve when that happened, but I still feel as though I were there. It's easy for a person my age (19) to be able to take for granted what they have without knowing about the wars people before them fought to give it to them. I am living a privileged life. I do not have to hide my sexuality from anyone. I go to work with a shirt on that says 'gay & proud.' My boss approves. I gave speeches and did surveys on gay people as part of class projects in high school. No one laughed or called me any names - to my face. I am indeed privileged. I have freedom that not everyone has, but still, I refuse to ignore the war that is still being fought to secure my sexual freedom and I thank whole-heartedly the men and women who fought for not only themselves, but for all of us.

To all of the people who fought for freedom at Stonewall, I say thank you for leaving my generation an open door to see our futures through and for laying the yellow brick road for us to follow.

Bisexual swingers: you are invited to an Anything Goes Party. Music & dancing, safe sex, controlled environment, time out area, party games. Have fun and feel safe. If two women attend together, one gets in free. All must be on house list to get in. Tentative date mid-July. For more information and to help plan, call 236-9727; leave name, phone, and when to reach you.

Showtime!

Gay Community Social Services (GCSS), our parent organization, is planning to hold a talent show this fall. The idea is to create a 'signature' event; something that is held every year and is associated with GCSS. We are looking for help with organizing the event: finding space, publicity, and of course, talent. Please call our Bi Phone, or GCSS at 292-5144 for more information, or to volunteer.

Women & Environmental Health

Lifestyle changes and reduced consumption are critical for the health of our planet. Women's Environmental Network (WEN) groups around the country are focusing on health issues in 1994. Health problems with possible environmental links include breast cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, endometriosis, immune system deficiency, asthma, and lead poisoning. To join or find out about events, contact WEN, 1202 E Pike St #690, Seattle WA 98122.

INT'L DIRECTORY OF BISEXUAL GROUPS NOW AVAILABLE

The 1994 edition of the International Directory of Bisexual Groups is hot off the press. Edited by Robyn Ochs and published by the Bisexual Resource Center, this issue has over 100 new listings and includes bisexual and lesbian/gay/bisexual groups in 18 countries and over 40 US states. You can get your own copy by sending $5 to BRC, PO Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140.

About Pink Triangles and Other Pride Symbols

by Peggy Walsh

People have wondered where the pink triangle and other symbols came from, and how they came to signify 'gay.' I've been asking around about some of these figures and came up with the following:

Pink Triangle ▽ - Male homosexuals in Nazi concentration camps were labeled with pink triangles, comparable to the Jews being forced to wear the yellow Star of David. The pink triangle has been turned over (from Δ) and reclaimed as a symbol of gay liberation, signifying 'Never forget; Never go back!'

Green Carnation - Worn by men in Oscar Wilde's generation to identify themselves as Gay.

Green clothing on Thursday - an old high-school rumor, to signal to other queer youth.

Black Triangle ▼ - Applied to lesbians and other social and political misfits in Nazi concentration camps. It's being reclaimed by lesbians as a symbol of liberation.

Lavender - Chosen to represent Gays and Lesbians, a mixture of red (F) and blue (M). It's also an ancient symbol of magic, of transition, and of power in shamanic times.

Rainbow - Originated in San Francisco in 1978 as an alternative to the American Flag. Intended to symbolize Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay Pride, and the diversity and many colors of our community. It has become a symbol of Queer pride throughout the US and Europe.

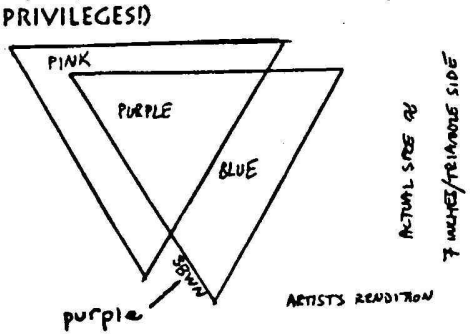
Labrys - Double-headed axe, said to have been a battle axe used by Amazon women, or an agricultural tool used during matriarchal times. Used as a power symbol by Lesbians.

Lambda λ - The eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet (L). Chosen by Gay/Lesbian organizations in New York as a symbol of Liberation on the eve of 1969 Stonewall Riots, and in 1974 at the International Gay Rights Congress in Scotland it was voted as the international symbol for Gay & Lesbian Rights. It was later learned that Spartan platoons of homosexual men had this symbol on their shields.

Three-color Double Triangle - Designed by Liz Nania of Boston to signify Bisexual Pride for the first March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Rights in October 1987. At the first International Bisexual Conference in 1990 in San Francisco, the community there voted it as the official Bisexual symbol.

COMING OCTOBER 11: THE BISEXUAL LOGO T-SHIRT! AVAILABLE IN TWO COLORS: BLACK AND HEATHER GREY. SIZES ARE LARGE, X-LARGE, AND OVER-SIZE (APPROXIMATELY 4X-LARGE). PRICED AT $12 EACH, SBWN MEMBWERS MAY BI THE SHIRTS FOR ONLY $10 (A 15% SAVINGS, WE TOLD YOU MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!)

GET THEM AT SBWN MEETINGS AND AT NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY CELEBRATIONS. WE CAN ALSO MAIL THEM FOR AN ADDITIONAL $2 POSTAGE AND HANDLING.



WEAR OUR COLORS WITH BISEXUAL PRIDE!

A Father's Day Conversation with Dad

by Paul Talbert

My father, Arthur Talbert, died with little forewarning in the spring of 1987, and I never had the chance to say many things to him which were on my mind. As Father's Day approaches, I would like to say some of them now.

Dear Dad,

A couple of years ago in a men's meeting I was surprised to find that I was the only one to admit to having much of a relationship with my father. Many of the complaints about fathers were familiar to me: always busy with work, unable to remember things of importance in their children's lives, often tired and impatient. Yet I never felt you were absent from my life, or disinterested. Although you were not always as good as Mom about sensing my concerns and nurturing my feelings, you always listened when I talked to you, and you usually challenged me to think a little more broadly, and to care a little more deeply.

You shaped my understanding of gender equality. Although when I was young you and Mom had a fairly traditional division of labor, you never gave me the notion that it was improper for me to play with dolls, make cookies or sew pajamas, or that some jobs were inappropriate for my sisters. You tolerated my crying (or not) without making 'manliness' an issue. When Mom went back to work you learned to do more housework and, as circumstances changed, eventually many of the roles reversed. And of course you had the good sense to marry a woman who had an education, a career, and a sense of her own capabilities in the first place.

In my teens it was difficult to talk to you. It is hard now to remember all the reasons why. Most of them came down to that inevitable chafing at the reins of authority. Perhaps you could have tempered your authority with a little more nurturing of who I was becoming. Perhaps I could have tempered my rebellion with a little more understanding of who you were. I remember how angry I was when you decided to move my developmentally disabled sister Karen permanently to the state training school. I am sorry now that I made you listen to my anger and loss and never tried to listen to how painful this move must have been for you.

When I was twenty and had been on my own long enough to want to try to be better friends, I talked enthusiastically to you about your upcoming trip to Israel, because at that time it was one of the few things I could figure out how to talk with you about. I never expected you to take me along. And although we came home better friends, I still didn't really know how to talk about our different religious views of a trip which was at least in some respects a pilgrimage. I want you to know that even though I don't view my spirituality in your theological framework, that trip was in many ways a spiritual journey for me, and I thank you for making it possible.

Like almost all parents and kids, we didn't communicate very well about sexuality. Yet you taught me the tolerance and self-respect I needed to accept my bisexuality. You taught me that sex is something beautiful and sacred, and best shared with someone I love, and that relationships are formed with entire persons rather than just with attractive bodies. You talked with me about your sometimes embittered brother, who was homosexual or celibate or somehow not heterosexually inclined. What mattered was not his sexuality, or even that he was your brother, but rather that he was someone who needed understanding and appreciation like the rest of us. You taught me to try to have that same understanding and appreciation for everyone. And when I told you about my confused bisexual feelings you had the kindness or understanding to just listen without too many questions or answers.

More than anything, perhaps, you taught me your sense of justice. One of the hardest things to deal with when you died was the feeling that my life as a researcher was devoted to a meaningless form of intellectual play, while your life had been devoted to combatting hunger, promoting civil rights, working for peace in Vietnam and Nicaragua, providing services to the elderly and poor, and generally making a difference in the well-being of the world around you. Although I have come to accept that I have

different talents and means of contributing to the world, I am still somewhat in awe of the energy and devotion with which you sought social justice. When I was young I used to be embarrassed to tell friends that you were a minister because I thought I would seem like such a goody-two-shoes (which I mostly was). I am proud now that you had such a profound sense of ministry to the world.

Early on in learning to be a step-parent, I was shocked to hear things come out of my mouth that you had said to me (and which I had sworn as a teenager never to say to my children), and was even more shocked to find I believed them. Since then I have become much more conscious about learning from your example.

I have just returned from my first tour of duty as a step-grandfather. So far, grandparenting is easy and fun: play with the baby when he feels good and hand him back to mom when he's fussy. However, I know from your example that grandparenting is really an extension of parenting, and that although my parenting duties are in some sense over with all three stepdaughters grown and on their own, they have really just entered a new phase. I debate with myself about when to offer my stepdaughter Peaches advice, when to bring up issues in child-rearing she hasn't mentioned, when to offer assistance, and when to just listen (always). As she embraces a fundamentalist variety of Christianity I find myself rejoicing that she is exploring her own spirituality, and regretting that I didn't erect more guideposts about my own spiritual path. I am thankful that I

have your understanding of Christianity to rely on as a reference point to help Peaches and me to understand each others' spiritual framework. I find myself looking for ways to encourage her growth, while hoping to challenge and broaden her perspective, as you did so well for me.

Peaches asked me if I believe that you are in Heaven. I told her that you had believed in some kind of heaven, but for me this beautiful life is good enough. Your emphasis seemed always to be on making the Kingdom of God on earth, and I believe that you live on in this world in the hearts and minds of the many people whose lives you enriched with your own.

I am glad I am one of them.

Love,

Paul

Paul

Seattle Bi Men Caught With Their Pants Down

by Drew Robinson
Seattle Bisexual Men's Union

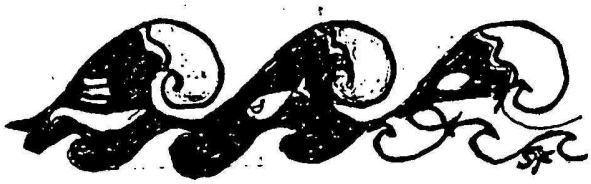
You would've loved last night's SBMU meeting, it was a hoot!

Half the guys who showed up either didn't know, or didn't remember that the topic was 'Working your look: Fashion, style, and body image,' but Will turned it into a 'fashion show' anyway! He had everyone get up, walk down 'the aisle' (Miss America-style) and we all described what they were wearing, and what 'look' we thought they were trying to achieve (Elsa Klench-style!). Then each bi-guy was asked to tell the group why they wear what they do, and what 'target market' (Will's words again) they were trying to reach!! Can you guess what some of ours were? (i.e. Drew - boy next door; ben - anarchist, worker-class; Paul - Neo-60's post-hippie, etc...)!!

Of course, with Will around, we didn't get away with 'modeling' JUST our clothes, we had to do UNDERWEAR too!! (Remember, our meetings are in a CHURCH now!) That of course led to a discussion of briefs vs boxers, white vs colors, midrise vs bikini, cotton vs silk, etc., etc.!!

And one MORE thing, Will had called me before the meeting to ask me to bring a camera. "Drew!!" he said, "You bring a camera to everything ELSE, how can you NOT bring a camera to the 'work your look' SBMU meeting???" So, thanks to his foresight I captured much of the evening on film, and when I get them developed, you'll have to see them so you can get an idea what the well-dressed bi-guy is wearing in the 90's!!

SHEEP SHOTS
©1992 Roberta Gregory
HEY! Isn't that one of those books that promotes the homosexual lifestyle?
No...
SALLY HAS 2 MOMMIES
What if ALL our kids read that book and become GAY? NOBODY will have any children and we'll all... DIE OUT!
BOBBY'S mommy is gay and she had HIM!
SALLY HAS MOMMIES
NEXT they'll be putting those books in the LIBRARY! This world is going to HELL! People exposing their children to FILTH! NOBODY cares about the FAMILY anymore!
Maybe when we're done you can read it to HER, mommy!
THINK I'm about 30 years too LATE..
SALLY HAS



Male Homosexuality Now Safer in U.K., Russia

The British parliament recently lowered the age of consent between men from 21 to 18 after much debate on public health issues and sexual exploitation of young men. The decision was a compromise for gay activists advocating age 16, the age of consent for lesbians and heterosexuals, and conservatives advocating no change. This vote is evidence of the rising strength of Britain's gay-rights lobby.

About the same time Russia's Article 121, one of the most repressive sodomy laws in the world, was repealed, thus decriminalizing gay male homosexuality. As lesbianism is not acknowledged there, there was no such rule for women.

This looks good, but it hardly keeps the government out of one's pants, with all the other laws restricting importation and content of publications, who may cohabit in certain communities, and public behavior. Even here in Washington, we're up against Initiative 608, No Special Rights, and Initiative 610, Child Protection Act, this year. More on these later.

CALENDAR

For locations, confirmation, or more information, call the appropriate message machine and someone will get back to you (with discretion, if requested) For SBWN events call (206) **783-7987**. For all other Seattle events, **(BiNet, SBMU, Polyfi, Bi Fun, etc.)** Call (206) **(Note this is a new number) 728-4533**. * denotes multi-gender events.

For more info on the TBA topics, consult the phone messages, or offer us your suggestions for topics. On out-of-town events, we try to car or bus-pool.

Thu Jun 2-2nd bi Second. 7pm, music @ Salute, in Vance Hotel, 616 Stewart St. *

Sun Jun 5-SBWN Meeting. 6pm. Open Rap.

Sun Jun 5-Boise ID Pride March *

Tue Jun 7-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Liz's. ***Feminist Theory: from Margin to Center*, by bell hooks**

Wed Jun 8-BiNet meeting. 7pm @ Lizabeth's, Wallingford. *

Sat Jun 11-Big Bi Fun. 10pm. Bdwy Mkt *

Sun Jun 12-Spokane WA Pride March, weekend road trip *

Mon Jun 13-SBWN Newcomer mtg. 7:15pm. 'Bisexuality & Marriage.'

Mon Jun 13-SBMU mtg. 7pm. 'Anal Sex.'

Sun Jun 19-SBWN mtg. 6pm. 'Surviving the Anti-Gay Movement.'

Sun Jun 19-Portland OR Pride March *

Tue Jun 21-SBWN live phone answer, 7-10pm.

Fri Jun 24-SBMU social. 7pm @ Elliott's, Pier 56, Marion & Alaskan Way *

Sat Jun 25-Big Bi Fun. 10pm. Bdwy Mkt. *

Sun Jun 26 Stonewall 25 & Seattle Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Parade/ March & Freedom Rally. All Day. *

Mon Jun 27 SBWN Newcomer mtg. 7:15pm. Hot Dam Girls.

Sat Jul 2-2nd bi Second. Picnic @ Mine Creek camp, E. of North Bend, 10am-6pm *

Sun Jul 3-SBWN mtg. 6pm. 'To Date or Not To Date'

Tue Jul 5-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Lizabeth's, Wallingford. ***Mourning Dove* by Mourning Dove**

Sat Jul 9-Big Bi Fun. 10pm. Bdwy Mkt. *

Mon Jul 11-SBWN Mtg. 7:15pm. TBA.

Mon Jul 11-SBMU Mtg. 7pm. 'Religion & Sexuality'

Wed Jul 13-SBWN Facilitator's collective mtg. 7pm @ Gayla's, N.Q. Anne.

Wed Jul 13-BiNet Mtg. 7pm @ Peggy's, Ballard *

Thu Jul 14-SBWN live phone answer, 7-10pm.

July 16-Polyfidelity Potluck. 6:30pm. Pilgrim Congregational Church

Sun Jul 17-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. Topic TBA.

Fri Jul 22-SBMU social. Full Moon Party @ Arboretum. *

Sat Jul 23-Big Bi Fun. 10pm Bdway Mkt. *

Mon Jul 25-SBWN Newcomer Mtg. 7:15pm. Topic TBA.

Sun Jul 31-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Come See the Toys in Babeland'

Mon Aug 1-Vancouver BC Pride March, weekend road trip *

Tue Aug 2-2nd Bi Second. 6pm Canoeing @ UofW Waterfront Activities Center *

Wed Aug 3-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Peggy's, Ballard. Devra's book.

Sat Aug 6-Big Bi Fun. 10pm. Bdwy Mkt. *

Mon Aug 8-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. Topic TBA.

Local Groups at Your Service

SBWN (Seattle Bisexual Women's Network) Support and discussion groups on alternate Sundays, 6pm, and Newcomer meetings on alternate Mondays, 7:15pm. For more information, call our message machine. Note our occasional live phone answer times.

Bluestockings: SBWN-affiliated feminist women's reading group meets on first Tuesdays of the month, unless that day falls on the 2nd, in which case check phone msg. They try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction.

SBMU (Seattle Bisexual Men's Union): a men's anti-sexist support and social group with discussion meetings on second Mondays of the month at Pilgrim Congregational Church, room 304 (enter from 10th Av), and social events on fourth Fridays of the month (location varies).

Big Bi Fun Club meets every other Saturday night by the stairs next to Bulldog News in the Broadway Market; 10pm in Summer, 8pm in Winter. All bi-friendly people are welcome to join us as we gather and decide together what activity we are going to go do. It's a great way to meet people and have fun as you promote bi visibility.

Polyfidelity Group: Discussion, stories, literature, community, philosophizing about multipartner relationships, respdnsible non-monogamy.

2nd bi Second: a floating social event held on the second of every month. Its theme is meant to be more family-oriented than Big Bi Fun. All are welcome to attend. Contact BiNet to help choose events (i.e. Canoeing, Jazz, Picnic, Story Reading).

BiNet, the Bisexual Network of Seattle, is a multi-gender, multicultural profeminist group dedicated to providing information about bisexuality, promoting bisexual visibility, and developing community. BiNet has spun off several small social, support and special-interest groups.

BiOut Speakers Bureau is available for engagements at schools, businesses, counseling centers, churches, etc. to provide information and answer questions about bisexuality.